

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



August 12, 2003



This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil.

EOD investigates rocket attack threat

by Pfc. Kelly Hunt

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (Army News Service, Aug. 11, 2003) — Explosive ordnance personnel discovered a rocket thought to be aimed at Bagram Air Field, Aug. 2. Local nationals alerted them to the possible threat and handled the situation through the combined efforts of troops.

The call came from counterintelligence personnel following a tip from the local police chief, said Sgt. William Conard, 797th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

On-scene intelligence translators gathered information from the local population on the situation. They notified EOD that wires had been separated from the rocket by the locals, disarming the device prior to their arrival.

Escorted by military police from the 293rd MP Company, Fort Stewart, Ga., EOD personnel continued to further investigate the area to ensure its safety.

"We made sure there were no secondary devices and looked for trip wires and booby traps," said Conard.

Once personnel declared the area safe, troops from the Military Police Investigations team joined in the mission, searching for leads on who may have been behind the crime.

"(Investigators) were unable to get any fingerprints off of the rocket because of the dust," said Staff Sgt. Barry Peterson, 797th Ord. Co.

(EOD), team leader.

"Everything went really smoothly," he added. Peterson and Conard believe the success of the mission is credited to the joint effort of all involved.

"It was a joint mission and the mission couldn't have been accomplished without (everyone's involvement)," said Conard.

"The security team played a large part in (the mission's) success," said Peterson. "They secured the area, they secured the vehicles and they made sure we were all safe going to and from (the site), so the rifle platoon made everything a lot easier on us."

Security is highly important during these kinds of missions due to the possibility that they are a set up. The rocket could be a ploy to draw coalition forces in, said Conard. "You don't know who's out there; you could be set up for an ambush."

This was the EOD team's first time being called on for a rocket attack threat, said Capt. Jeffrey Ford, company commander, 797th Ord. Co. (EOD). "We've only been here eight weeks, so that was the first occurrence where (we) have found a launch site," he said.

Ford added launch sites have been detected and rocket attacks have happened in the past, but this was his team's first encounter with the threat.

(Editor's note: Pfc. Kelly Hunt is a journalist with the 4th Public Affairs Detachment in Afghanistan.)

Force posture needs change, transformation chief explains

by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, American Forces Press Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Aug. 12, 2003 - The future posture of the U.S. armed forces will have to change in order to secure the country's global interests, said DoD's director of force transformation here recently.

"You're going to position forces forward, or you're going to do strategic deployments from home, or you're going to rely on allies," retired Navy Vice Adm. Arthur K. Cebrowski told the Joint National

Training Capability Conference in July. "In fact we seek a mix of those things, a balance depending upon the interest, the location and the general geopolitics."

He discussed the Joint National Training Capability planned for implementation over the next decade. That capability will change the way the military trains for war and focuses on joint training

continued on page 2

U.S. probe: Iraq hotel shooting justified

by Robert Burns

WASHINGTON (AP) - A U.S. military investigation has concluded that U.S. soldiers who fired on a Baghdad hotel April 8, killing two journalists, had strong reason to believe that hostile forces were using the building to direct fire on the Americans, according to a U.S. defense official.

The official, who had been briefed on the investigation's findings and discussed them on condition of anonymity, said members of the 3rd Infantry Division fired on what they believed to be an enemy spotter on a balcony of the Palestine Hotel, which was the main hotel used by war correspondents.

Their actions were based on intercepted transmissions from an Iraqi military radio that had been recovered during fierce fighting along

Force posture needs change, transformation chief explains continued

operations among Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and even coalition forces.

Cebrowski said for many years the U.S. strategy has been to deploy its forces from home. "And to a significant extent it still does," he said.

However, he said, "this will have to change," and that U.S. forces will have to operate differently to include increasing relationships with allies. "We are going to have to strengthen them, perhaps strengthening the relationships in different ways," he said.

Cebrowski said the United States was "heavily weighted" in favor of operational maneuvers from garrison forward. "That's what we did in (Operation) Iraqi Freedom," he said. "We had garrison in Kuwait. We enormously strengthened that garrison and then we stepped off from that garrison against objectives."

However, he said, operational maneuvers from garrison forward are becoming increasingly vulnerable, both militarily and politically. He said the military must look at different ways of deploying to strategic operations.

"We'll have to go somewhere else, to operational maneuvers from sea and that is going to require different orientations of force. We're going to do operational maneuvers from strategic distances, and that's going to be a dramatically different pull on lift and how forces operate, which means, therefore, how they train," he said.

Cebrowski also said the posture change will mean the armed forces will have take on more of a special operations role, citing the high degree of mobility and the ease of insertion those units have into theater.

"It's not necessarily that we need more special operations forces, although a few more would be a very good idea," he said. "But these are the kinds of characteristics that we are going to need increasingly in the forces."

the Tigris River, not far from the Palestine, according to the Central Command investigation. The transmissions indicated that Alpha Company of the 4-64 Armor was being observed by an Iraqi spotter across the Tigris. Company soldiers saw a person with binoculars on the balcony of a room on the upper floors of a large, tan building, and they also reported seeing flashes of light that appeared to be enemy fire.

One 120mm tank round was fired at the suspected enemy observer position. Only later did Alpha Company become aware that the building they fired upon was the Palestine Hotel, Central Command said.

The events transpired in the midst of a fierce firefight as U.S. forces advanced toward a bridge over the Tigris that was being defended by what Central Command indicated were several hundred Iraqi forces. The U.S. troops encountered fire from rocket propelled grenades, mortars and small arms originating from bunkers as well as within and atop surrounding buildings.

The matter was investigated at length by the U.S. Central Command, which ran the war. Officials said Central Command has completed its probe but not yet publicly released the findings.

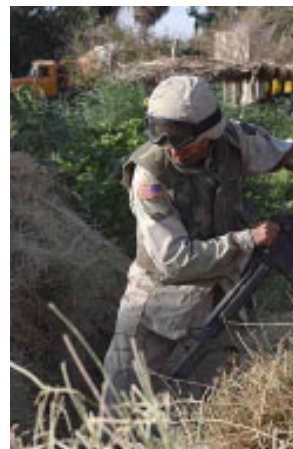
The findings are consistent with the initial assertions by U.S. officials that the 3rd Infantry Division soldiers had come under fire from a building in the vicinity of the hotel.

Shortly after the incident, Secretary of State Colin Powell defended the U.S. soldiers' actions, which resulted in the deaths of a Ukrainian cameraman and a Spanish cameraman.

Powell wrote to Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacio in response to her inquiry that "our forces responded to hostile fire appearing to come from a location later identified as the Palestine Hotel."

One of the cameramen, Jose Couso, was Spanish. Powell's letter appeared Thursday in the Spanish newspaper ABC and was confirmed Friday by State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

"Our review of the April 8 incident indicates that the use of force was justified and the amount of force was proportionate to the threat against United States forces," Powell said in his letter.



Pfc. Christopher Socmer of the 489th Engineer Battalion, from Arkansas, looks for mines and contraband in Falluja, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Robert Liddy)

Iraq convoy attack kills 1 U.S. soldier, wounds 2

by Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12, 2003 – One U.S. 3rd Armored Cavalry soldier was killed and two were injured today in Iraq when their convoy encountered three improvised bombs, according to a U.S. Central Command news release.

The incident occurred near Ar Ramadi. The wounded soldiers were treated at the 28th Combat Support Hospital; one has been returned to duty, according to the release.

Names of the soldiers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

And CENTCOM noted the U.S. 4th Infantry Division and Task Force Ironhorse have recently launched two raids – part of Operation Ivy Lightning — to round up Saddam loyalists suspected of hiding out in and around the remote Iraqi towns of Ain Lalin and Quara Tapa.

In Baghdad, the Iraqi capital city, Iraqis and coalition forces teamed up Aug. 11 to get outlawed weapons and military ordnance off the streets, according to CENTCOM. For example, at the village of Tal Alseer, Iraqis working with the U.S. 1st Marine Expeditionary Force collected one 82 mm mortar tube, hundreds of mortar rounds and

one 14.5 mm anti-aircraft gun, plus 16 boxes of ammo.

During a recent raid of a suspected arms dealer, U.S. Army 1st Armored Division soldiers in Iraq confiscated almost 1,500 rounds of small-caliber ammo, 17 AK-47 automatic weapons, 19 20 mm flares, four grenades, one 9 mm pistol and one rifle, according to CENTCOM.

In fact, in the past 24 hours, U.S.-coalition forces in Iraq conducted 32 raids, 825 daytime patrols and 638 night patrols, noted CENTCOM, which also noted that 122 day patrols and 83 night patrols have been conducted with Iraqi police during the same period.

In news from Afghanistan, CENTCOM expressed its regrets for the Aug. 10 deaths of two Pakistani security troops and the wounding of another near the Afghan-Pakistani border.

The Pakistanis, the release noted, were mistakenly hit by coalition close-air support ordnance during a military operation near Orgun, Afghanistan.

The enemy troops had fired on coalition forces on patrol, the release noted, and had subsequently retreated, heading for the Pakistani border when the air strikes were called up. The incident is under investigation.



A U.S. army truck passes by as smoke billows out from an oil pipeline after it caught fire, near Haditha, 280 kilometers west of Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday Aug. 12, 2003. The cause of fire was not known. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup)

Two Iraqi men ride a horse drawn cart under black smoke from a burning crude oil pipeline, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2003, in Al-Taji, 20kms north of Baghdad, Iraq. Flames shot 60 meters (200 feet) in the air from a burst oil pipeline in a chemical production region north of Baghdad on Tuesday, and American forces at the scene fired warning shots to keep journalists from approaching. (AP Photo/Wally Santana)



U.S. ends latest search in Iraq; no sign of Saddam

By Luke Baker

TIKRIT, Iraq (Reuters) - U.S. forces ended a search of an isolated corner of Iraq Tuesday after troops backed by helicopters and tanks seized large stockpiles of weapons but found no trace of fugitive dictator Saddam Hussein.

Further north, an Iraqi Kurdish group said its Peshmerga fighters had captured members of Ansar al-Islam, a shadowy group reported to have links with al Qaeda.

Adel Murad, a spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), told Reuters in Baghdad that 50 people had been rounded up after they crossed the border from Iran.

Washington says some foreign fighters, along with die-hard Saddam loyalists, are behind a guerrilla campaign that has killed 56 U.S. soldiers since the start of May.

Paul Bremer, Iraq's U.S. governor, has said Ansar al-Islam fighters were returning after fleeing during the war, and that it is one of the groups that may have carried out a deadly truck bomb attack on Jordan's embassy in Baghdad last week.

Murad also said Ansar al-Islam was regrouping.

"Now we think the group has returned to the area to resume their terrorist acts in Kurdistan and to participate in terrorist operations inside Iraq," he said.

"We will capture them and send them to trial."

In Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, U.S. officers said Operation Ivy Lightning, the latest effort by the U.S. 4th Infantry Division to hunt down guerrillas, had ended in eastern Iraq with two suspects detained and several arms caches seized.

The operation focused on remote villages around 80 miles north of Baghdad, after intelligence reports suggested Saddam loyalists may have fled there to escape repeated raids around the deposed president's hometown of Tikrit.

Lieutenant Colonel William MacDonald of the 4th Infantry Division told reporters at his headquarters in one of Saddam's lavish former palaces in Tikrit that progress was being made in rounding up guerrillas and lower-level Saddam loyalists.

"We're not so focused on one individual," he said.

"We're more resolved to go after mid-level leaders and foot soldiers because they are the ones recruiting and organizing subversive activity against us."



AK-47 assault rifles lie on the hood of a Humvee at a checkpoint after a pre-dawn raid in the village of Ain Lalin, Iraq, August 11, 2003. U.S. forces ended a search of an isolated corner of Iraq on August 12 after troops backed by helicopters and tanks seized large stockpiles of weapons but found no trace of fugitive dictator Saddam Hussein. Operation Ivy Lightning, launched on Monday, was the latest effort by the U.S. 4th Infantry Division to hunt down pro-Saddam guerrillas blamed for a wave of attacks that has killed 56 American soldiers since the start of May. Reuters photo.

Saddam remains on the run despite an intense U.S. manhunt and a \$25 million price on his head. His feared sons Uday and Qusay were killed last month by U.S. troops.

U.S. officers in Tikrit said that in separate raids over the past day, 14 Saddam loyalists had been detained.

Occupying troops have faced fewer problems in the Shi'ite south, but chronic shortages of power and fuel sparked unrest in the city of Basra and surrounding areas over the weekend.

British troops have been distributing petrol to gas stations to try to calm tensions, but many locals remain angry that fuel is being rationed.

The problems in southern Iraq have hindered Iraq's ability to produce and export oil — a key prerequisite for economic recovery in the war-scarred country.

TIKRIT, Iraq (Reuters) - U.S. forces in Iraq have captured a former bodyguard of Saddam Hussein and a general in Saddam's army in a raid in the deposed president's home town of Tikrit, U.S. officers said Tuesday.

Officers of the 4th Infantry Division in Tikrit said the two men were among 14 detainees captured Monday in a raid in the town north of Baghdad.

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

BOGOTA, Colombia, Aug. 11, 2003 – Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers began a three-day visit to South and Central America Aug. 11 by highlighting the successes leaders here have achieved in the war on terrorism.

While in Colombia the chairman will meet with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, who celebrated a year in office Aug. 7. Uribe has aggressively sought to re-establish the government in rebel-held areas and has pursued three narcoterrorist factions.

The chairman will also meet with Defense Minister Martha Lucia Ramirez and Gen. Jorge Mora, the Colombian Chief of Defense.

The relationship between the United States and Colombia has changed. In the past, U.S. efforts were directed exclusively at the threat posed by drug traffickers.

But the rebels groups – the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the National Liberation Army (ELN) and the United Self-defense Groups of Colombia (AUC) – use tactics indistinguishable from terrorists. Officials estimate the FARC – the largest rebel group – has roughly 15,000 hard-core adherents with another 5,000 “sleepers.” Officials estimate the ELN has about 5,000 supporters and the AUC has about 10,000. All of the groups are allied with drug traffickers and sell drugs to buy weapons and finance their operations. The United States has expanded the help it provides to Colombia to take on the terrorist groups.

“You can’t cure just half a cancer” was the way one senior military official put it in describing the change to U.S. policy. “The expansion from counternarcotics to counterterrorism is exactly the right thing to do,” said a senior military official. The official said the Colombian military is very capable and that the people want free and democratic rule.

With U.S. training – provided by some 400 Army Special Forces and contract personnel – the military will become even more capable, the official said.

The chairman will discuss how the programs are going in the country and listen to Colombian officials as they detail their experiences and needs in the war on terrorism.

For his part, the chairman will share with Colombian leaders some of the U.S. “lessons learned” from actions in Afghanistan and Iraq. He will specifically speak about the effectiveness of joint operations, the necessity of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and ways to “operationalize” intelligence.

The FARC, ELN and AUC are all listed on the State Department’s terrorist organization list. For decades, the organizations have cowed the populace into cooperating with them.

Myers travels south to discuss war on terror with Colombian leaders

In one recent incident, FARC members paid an 8-year-old boy 25 pesos to ride a bicycle up to a police station. The bicycle was packed with explosives and when the boy arrived at the station, operatives using remote control detonated the bomb. They killed the boy, a pregnant woman and some police, and wounded many others.

The groups also target the infrastructure needed to run the country. From January to May 2002, for example, the groups launched 406 attacks against oil pipelines, electric towers, communications towers and bridges.

The Colombian government is fighting back. The government has opened police stations, army bases and placed services in areas that the rebels controlled before. Officials are working to ensure the judicial system gets back on track. Rebels had targeted judges for assassination and in one instance killed 12 justices during an attack on Colombia’s Supreme Court.

The Colombian military is also protecting local mayors and town council who too often were rebel targets in the past. “There are places in Colombia that are seeing the government for the first time in 30 years,” said a Defense official.

The military is fighting back and now the FARC, which used to work in battalion-sized units with impunity, is now forced to fight in company-sized or smaller units, officials said.

From January to May 2003, attacks on infrastructure targets dropped to 191: a reduction of 53 percent from 2002.

Counterterrorism units are making headway. According to U.S. Southern Command, the Colombian military captured 5,784 rebels from August 2002 to May 2003, compared to 2,790 during a similar period beginning August 2001. The Colombian government killed or wounded 1,548 rebels in 2003 and seized almost 4,500 weapons.

U.S. Southern Command officials said the number of rebel deserters has “skyrocketed,” with 1,375 since Uribe took office in August 2002.

While the program is part of the global war on terrorism, it does not ignore the drug aspect. In 2002, the most recent year for statistics, Colombian authorities arrested 33,340 traffickers. They also seized 94 metric tons of cocaine and 23 metric tons of coca base.

The chairman will discuss regional aspects of the war on terror. Officials said he will discuss allegations that some of the rebel groups are finding refuge in neighboring Venezuela.

www.goordnance.apg.army.mil

2 more U.S. troops catch pneumonia abroad

WASHINGTON (AP) - Two more soldiers overseas have come down with serious pneumonia, bringing the unexplained cases to 17, the Army said Monday.

Officials are investigating the cause of some 100 cases counted since March, focusing on a number of them so serious the patients had to be put on ventilators and flown to Europe.

The number of serious cases was 15 last week and now has risen to 17, said a statement Monday from the Army surgeon general's office.

The statement said officials have found "no infectious agent common to all of the cases," and no evidence the patients were exposed to biological or chemical weapons, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), or environmental toxins.

Officials said last week that cases were among troops serving in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, with 10 of the then-15 cases from Iraq and the others from Uzbekistan, Qatar and elsewhere. Monday's statement didn't say where the new cases happened, and no one

was available to comment.

A two-person investigative team has gone to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, where most of the sick soldiers were treated after evacuation. A six-person team was sent to Iraq, including infectious disease experts, laboratory workers and people to take samples of soil, water and air as well as medical samples from patients.

The two teams were to review patient records and laboratory results and interview health care workers and patients, if possible. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also is reviewing the cases.

Armywide, between 400 and 500 soldiers get pneumonia each year. It is the severity of these new cases that has caused special concern.

www.goarmy.com

China's PLA sees value in pre-emptive strike strategy

by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11, 2003 — The military strategy of "shock and awe" used to stun the Iraqi military in the opening campaign of Operation Iraqi Freedom might be used by the Chinese if military force is needed to bring Taiwan back under communist control.

According to the released recently The Annual Report on the Military Power of the People's Republic of China (<http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/20030730chinaex.pdf>), the country's military doctrine now stresses elements such as "surprise, deception and pre-emption." Furthermore, the report states that Beijing believes that "surprise is crucial" for the success of any military campaign.

Taiwan, located off the coast of mainland China, claimed independence from the communist country in 1949. The island has 21 million people and its own democratic government.

China, with 1.3 billion people, claims sovereignty over the tiny island, sees Taiwan as a breakaway province and has threatened to use military force against Taiwan to reunify the country. And China's force against Taiwan could come as a surprise attack.

But "China would not likely initiate any military action unless assured of a significant degree of strategic surprise," according to the report.

The report states that Lt. Gen. Zheng Shenxia, chief of staff of the People's Liberation Army's Air Force and an advocate of pre-emptive action, believes the chances of victory against Taiwan would be "limited" without adopting a pre-emptive strategy.

The report says that China now believes pre-emptive strikes are its best advantage against a technologically superior force. Capt. Shen

Zhongchang from the Chinese Navy Research Institute is quoted as saying that "lightning attacks and powerful first strikes will be widely used in the future."

China's new military thinking has evolved over the past decade. PLA observers have been studying U.S. military strategies since the first Gulf War, when they noticed how quickly U.S. forces using state-of-the-art weapons defeated Iraqi forces that in some ways resemble their own.

Since then, the report states the PLA has shifted its war approach from "annihilative," where an army uses "mass and attrition" to defeat an enemy, to more "coercive warfighting strategies."

The PLA now considers "shock power" as a crucial coercion element to the opening phase of its war plans and that PLA operational doctrine is now designed to actively "take the initiative" and "catch the enemy unprepared."

"With no apparent political prohibitions against pre-emption, the PLA requires shock as a force multiplier to catch Taiwan or another potential adversary, such as the United States, unprepared," the report states.

Ways the PLA would catch Taiwan and the U.S. off guard include strategic and operational deception, electronic warfare and wearing down or desensitizing the opponent's political and military leadership. Another objective would be to reduce any indication or warning of impending military action, the report states.

Preparing for a possible conflict with Taiwan and deterring the United States from intervening on Taiwan's behalf is the "primary driver" of China's military overhaul, according to this year's report. Over the course of the next decade the country will spend billions to counter U.S. advances in warfare technology, the report states.

Troops in Iraq may get brief leave

by Lisa Burgess, Patrick Dickson and Sandra Jontz, Stars and Stripes

If commanders on the ground have their way, soldiers deployed to Iraq may be getting a shot at a two-week leave back to their home station, with the flight covered by Uncle Sam.

In a July 31 letter to families, 101st Airborne Division Commander Maj. Gen. David Petraeus wrote of his efforts to fly his soldiers back to the United States for up to two weeks of leave after they are midway through a 12-month deployment.

"While I don't want to get hopes up too high, I should mention that we are also working on a midtour leave program," Petraeus wrote. "This will not be easy — especially as the residual air defense threat (there have been several surface-to-air missile launches to the south of our area) has prevented the resumption of civilian passenger flights into Iraq so far. And it will be very expensive for our Army."

A copy of the letter was provided to Stars and Stripes by the unit's public affairs office at Fort Campbell, Ky.

In Baghdad, the commander of the 1st Armored Division, Brig. Gen. Martin Dempsey, confirmed that the policy was being pursued, but also wanted to caution servicemembers that it had not yet been approved.

"Midtour leave is probably going to happen. But DOD may or may not approve it. If they do, between the 1st and the 11th month [of a deployment], a soldier [would] be eligible for two weeks leave."

Dempsey stressed that not everybody is going to be able to take this leave, even if it's approved.

Thousands of soldiers in Iraq would be eligible each month, but force levels need to be maintained at 90 percent. Thus, prioritization will need to take place.

"Where I see it fitting in is for those guys who almost made emergency leave criteria," Dempsey said.

An example, he said, is when a soldier's wife has a baby while he's deployed, they don't qualify for emergency leave but that soldier would be one of the first out.

As Dempsey envisioned it, airfare would be paid for by the government, but the leave would be chargeable to the servicemember.

The Pentagon hopes to have completed in roughly two weeks detailed plans on how to compensate troops deployed to Iraq.

Proposals include the leave, possible extra money for those units tagged to take on the yearlong deployment, and other "R&R," said Navy Cmdr. Chris Pendleton, the military assistant for the Deputy Undersecretary for Military Personnel Policy.

Details have yet to be finalized and would ultimately be approved by David Chu, the Defense Department's undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness.

"We're in the final stages of articulating a plan that would cover everything from leave for all the troops there to R&R and compensation," Pendleton said. "It's really quite intricate. But we think in two weeks, it'll be ready."

Pendleton said it is too premature to discuss any of the possibilities being considered.

Some troops in Iraq, such as those with the 101st, have been able to take short rest and relaxation jaunts to places such as nearby Qatar.

To circumvent security threats during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, the Pentagon chartered the Cunard Princess, a British luxury liner, aboard which troops took a three-day break from operations in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the region.

"We're working an extensive review of what can be accomplished ... so that the soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen will know what they're up against and what to expect and convey that to their families," Pendleton said.

The Army recently announced yearlong rotations for soldiers in Iraq. While troops are sent to South Korea unaccompanied for a year, and the first round of American peacekeepers in the Balkans spent almost 12 months in Bosnia, yearlong deployments have not given a large number of American troops since the Vietnam War.

— Lisa Burgess contributed to this report from Baghdad, Sandra Jontz from the Pentagon and Pat Dickson from Washington, D.C.



TAKING NOTES — Surrounded by villagers in Haqqad Kalay, Afghanistan, Staff Sgt. Jimmy Vestal, with the 481st Civil Affairs, Tulsa, Okla., takes notes on living conditions there, Aug. 9, 2003. Soldiers from Kandahar Army Air Field, Afghanistan, conducted a Team Village mission where members of Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations visit local villages and evaluate any humanitarian projects or aid that have been or will be distributed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Kyle Davis



Marine Cpl. Jacob Wells, a sniper attached to Task Force Rawhide, scans the terrain at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, from an elevated post using an M-49 spotting scope. The task force, a unit from the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, just assumed duties as the camp's guard force. The camp is headquarters for Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa. Photo by Sgt. Matthew B. Roberson, USMC

2 U.S. fliers die in South Korea plane crash

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - A U.S. military transport plane on a maintenance test flight crashed Tuesday south of Seoul, killing the two Americans on board, the U.S. military said.

The C-12 Huron, a 10-seat turboprop plane, went down at 2:43 p.m. seven miles southwest of Camp Humphreys, a U.S. base, the military said.

The pilot and the co-pilot died, the U.S. Eighth Army said in a news release. Their names were withheld pending notification of their families.

South Korean police Lt. Sung Yol-gap said there were no casualties on the ground.

Speaking by telephone from Asan, a town near the crash site, Sung said the plane crashed in a rice paddy near a restaurant. It plowed through garlic patches into a storehouse, destroying a chicken coop, a tractor and other farming implements. The building caught fire.

Local TV footage showed the burnt and shattered wreckage of the plane.

The U.S. military news release quoted a local resident as saying that he saw the plane “on fire, maneuvering away from the populated area of the town” before the crash.

Some 37,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War.

After 3 decades, Israeli helmet returned

JERUSALEM (AP) - A helmet that might have belonged to an Israeli pilot whose plane was shot down over Iraq in the 1967 Middle East war is back in Israeli hands, the military said Monday.

The helmet was in a Baghdad museum. Israeli media reports said it was handed over to the Israeli Embassy in Amman, Jordan, last week by U.S. officials.

Three Israeli planes were shot down over Iraq in June 1967 on the first day of the brief war. One of the pilots was captured, and the other two were presumed killed. Israeli media said the helmet belonged to one of the dead pilots.

In its statement, the military said the helmet was found by U.S. forces in Iraq several weeks ago, and it is trying to determine which

pilot wore it.

The Haaretz daily ran a front-page picture of the white helmet, which appeared to be in good condition. The paper said Israel also received pictures of what appeared to be remains of an Israeli aircraft.



www.defenselink.mil/

Food for thought: what it takes to feed an army

By U.S. Army Sgt. Greg Heath/
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan - The company Kellogg Brown and Root is in charge of feeding the force at Bagram Air Field and in Kabul, and they know one of the main recipes to happy service members is to provide them good, hot chow, and plenty of it - about \$1.5 million worth a week.

That's about the average cost of food the company Brown and Root has to bring into country keep the service members of Afghanistan running strong.

"We're working 24 hours a day to feed the soldiers," said Glenn Lee, Class 1 (food and beverage) supervisor. "The soldiers gotta have food and water, they've gotta have their fuel to work, and we provide that."

Brown and Root took over the food service responsibilities here in September of last year. And since they took over, the mission has grown and Brown and Root have been keeping up with the growing mission every step of the way.

Willie Mickens, supervisor of the North Dining Facility, has been here for over a year and remembers when there were only 5,000 service members in Bagram and they were all served meals out of a big mess tent at Camp Viper.

Since then the number of service members, U.S. and coalition forces, has grown to 13,000 and the dining accommodations have gotten bigger, with three full dining facilities now in Bagram and two in Kabul.

The process of feeding the force starts with requisitioning the food and beverages from distribution centers in Philadelphia and Kaiserslautern, Germany.

They get all of our meat from the U.S., and the fruits and vegetables come mostly through Germany, according to Lee.

Service members go through approximately 13,000 sodas everyday, which are shipped in from Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, which is evident by the Arabic writing on cans.

According to Lee, water bottles are also always heavily stocked because service members go through an average of 100,000 bottles a month. He added that they normally keep two million bottles in reserve at all times.



U.S. Army Sgt. Jerod Farkas, Combined Joint Task Force-180, is one of thousands of soldiers who eats at the Brown and Root-run dining facilities everyday at Bagram Airbase. On average, Brown and Root brings in \$1.5 million worth of food a week into Afghanistan for service members. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Greg Heath

To keep the dining facilities fully stocked, they are issued food three times a week from the Class 1 supply house.

For example, at the North dining facilities on average 500-700 service members are served breakfast and 1,200 -1,300 are served dinner everyday. The North dining facilities is responsible for feeding the service members from the Marine compound, the Army engineer compound, coalition soldiers from the Thai, Korean, and Italian Armies, and anyone else who decides to drive up.

One of the busiest days for the North dining facilities is Fridays, steak and lobster night, when they prepare food for 3,000 service members.

Base wide on Fridays, over 8,000 steaks are cooked up and consumed.

The Brown and Root cooks at the North dining facilities fill the enormous food order with dinner. Eight cooks start preparing breakfast at 1 a.m., and 10 dinner shift cooks get started at 10 a.m. in order to get the meal ready for 1,200 service members by 4:30 p.m. On each meal shift, 18 local Afghans assist the cooks.

At the Viper dining facilities nearly twice as many service members, on average 1,000 for breakfast and 2,400 for dinner, are served for each meal. According to Mickens, to get the huge amounts of food out it takes a lot of dedication and hard work, seven days a week, 24 hours a day from the dining facilities crews.

continued on page 10

Chief prosecutor seeks 'strong evidence' against terrorists

by Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12, 2003 – The acting chief prosecutor for military commissions is seeking hard proof linking detained enemy combatants to war crimes when selecting cases for trial.

"First of all, I want cases with very strong evidence," Army Col. Frederic Borch III pointed out during an Aug. 7 Wall Street Journal interview.

"I have to have a case that has good proof," the Army lawyer emphasized.

Russian says U.N. may vote soon to establish mission in Iraq

MOSCOW (AP) - A Russian diplomat said Tuesday that the U.N. Security Council could vote this week on a resolution whose main goal would be to establish a U.N. mission in Iraq, the Interfax news agency reported.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov said that Russia intends to work "constructively" on plans for a new Security Council resolution and that consultations on the issue are being held at the United Nations, Interfax reported.

He said that the main aim of the resolution would be to set up a U.N. mission in Iraq, a goal that U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan urged Security Council members to work on last week.

Russia has circulated a draft of a resolution that would establish a U.N. mission, but council diplomats said last week that the United States isn't convinced there's a need for one yet because Iraq already has the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority and the Governing Council.

Russia, a veto-wielding permanent member of the Security Council, vehemently opposed the U.S.-led war against Iraq and has called for a stronger U.N. role in postwar Iraq. At the same time, it has sought to patch up relations with the United States, which were damaged by the disagreement over the war.

Food for thought: what it takes to feed an army continued

"A lot of the guys working here are prior military," said Mickens, who retired from the Army in 1994. "We've been there and done that too, so this is like we're giving back. I remember what they're going through."

According Dean Brunn, shift leader and also a former soldier, the effort it takes to feed an army is hard work, but ultimately very gratifying.

"It's hard work preparing so much food in this heat, but I feel good about doing this," said Brunn. "You can see that (service members) appreciate it, especially the Marines, They eat a lot more, they just grub on it."

Six enemy combatants now being detained by DoD are undergoing evaluation to see if any should be charged and tried for war crimes under military commissions.

Borch, the Office of Military Commission's senior prosecuting military attorney, pointed out that Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz, the appointing authority, must approve any charges preferred against the accused.

The senior Army lawyer said he's also looking for "compelling facts" when weighing whether to bring accused terrorists to trial before military commissions.

And as the facts of accused terrorists' actions are presented during courtroom proceedings, Borch posited, people are "going to recognize the true danger" they pose to society.

continued on page 11

Reports: Saudi forces, militants clash in Riyadh suburb

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) - Security forces stormed several buildings in a Riyadh suburb and traded fire with suspected militants Tuesday, news reports said. It was the second day of reported clashes in Saudi Arabia.

The government has been cracking down on Islamic militants since May 12 suicide attacks in Riyadh that killed 26 people and nine attackers. Saudi police have stepped up efforts to crush networks of al-Qaida, the terror network blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks and the Riyadh bombings.

Jamil Thiabi, correspondent of the Lebanese Broadcasting Corp. in Riyadh, said Saudi security forces stormed buildings in the al-Suweidi suburb and surrounded a building under construction.

"Armed men in the building are hurling hand grenades and opening automatic rifle fire on the security forces," he said.

Helicopters were circling the area in pursuit of militants, the Dubai-based Al-Arabiya satellite station reported.

The reports could not be independently confirmed, and it was unclear if there were any casualties.

On Monday, Saudi police arrested 10 militants who allegedly belonged to a terrorist cell planning to attack a British target, according to a Saudi government official.

The bombings in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, sparked unprecedented public discussion of the role of religion in Saudi society, with some daring to argue that the strict form of Islam preached in the kingdom fostered intolerance and extremism.

More than 200 suspects have been arrested and more than a dozen killed in a series of high-profile police raids.

Chief prosecutor seeks 'strong evidence' against terrorists continued

"There are some bad people being detained down at Guantanamo Bay (Cuba)," Borch noted, who, "present a very real danger to not only America, but everyone, because they're involved with terrorism."

War crimes, Borch noted, may include, but are not limited to:

- Conspiracy to commit murder.
- Unlawful attacks on civilian objects.
- Torture.
- Killing of prisoners of war.

Most of the some 660 detainees at Guantanamo Bay aren't being held "for any view towards prosecution, but instead because they're enemy combatants who've been captured on the battlefield or (are) being detained" as part of the global war on terrorism, Borch explained.

"However, as time goes on we are identifying some of these as possible prosecution (subjects)," the colonel pointed out. About 64 detainees, commission officials noted, have been released.

Any detainees who'd be brought to trial before military commissions, Borch said, have been "up to some very bad things."

"That's why they're being prosecuted," he pointed out.

However, Borch emphasized, the president has mandated "full and fair" trials for accused detainees.

The "court of public opinion will see that this was a full and fair process," the colonel emphasized, "and the right legal mechanism for handling terrorism in the war on terrorism."

The detainees were seized during U.S. and coalition military operations precipitated by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. The al Qaeda terrorist group, led by Osama bin Laden, is universally believed to have planned and carried out the 9-11 attacks.

President George Bush, commander in chief of the U.S. armed forces, determined on July 3, 2003, there is reason to believe that each of the six enemy combatants was a member of al Qaeda or was otherwise involved in terrorist acts against the United States.

As such, the six detainees fall under the president's Military Order of Nov. 13, 2001, which directed the establishment of military commissions to provide full and fair trials of enemy combatants suspected of having committed war crimes against the United States, as recognized under international law.

Veterans Affairs proposes health system overhaul

Special to American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11, 2003 – The Department of Veterans Affairs is asking an independent commission to review a plan devised to reshape the way the department handles veterans' health care.

The draft plan stems from a VA study called Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services, or CARES. VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi presented the draft national CARES plan to the CARES Commission here Aug. 4. The commission will review the plan and conduct hearings before presenting its report to Principi for a final decision, which is expected by the end of the year.

"VA's mission to provide quality health care for America's veterans has not changed since its inception," said Dr. Robert H. Roswell, VA's undersecretary for health. "But how that job is done – at what kind of facilities, where they are located and which types of procedures are used – has seen dynamic change as a result of medical advances, modern health care trends, veteran migration and other factors."

VA officials said a July 1999 General Accounting Office study found the department was spending a million dollars a day on unneeded or unused facilities, so CARES was developed to identify an infrastructure that would better serve veterans' health-care needs in

the 21st century.

Principi said those infrastructure changes "may come with difficult choices."

"As VA enters the process of making these choices in communities across the country, it is important to remember the broad outcomes it seeks – more effective use of VA resources to provide more care to more veterans in places where veterans need it the most," the secretary said.

Among changes the plan proposes:

- Closing VA hospitals in Canandaigua, N.Y.; Pittsburgh (Highland Drive); Lexington, Ky. (Leestown); Brecksville, Ohio; Gulfport, Miss.; Livermore, Calif.; and Waco, Texas.
- Opening new hospitals in Las Vegas and in Orlando, Fla.
- Adding centers for the blind in Biloxi, Miss., and Long Beach, Calif.
- Creating new spinal-cord injury centers in Denver; Minneapolis; Syracuse or Albany, N.Y.; and Little Rock, Ark.

The first commission hearing on the plan is scheduled Aug. 12, according to the CARES Web site.

(Based on a VA release.)





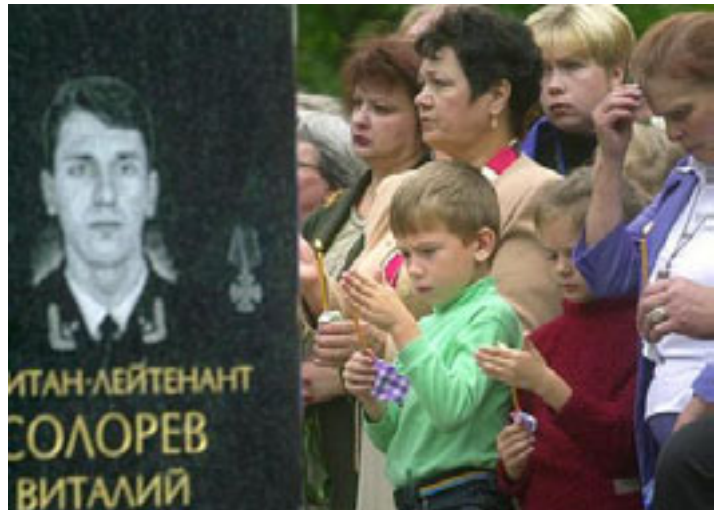
Iraqi citizens and soldiers with the 101st Airborne Division celebrate the reopening of Rebea'a train station on the Syrian and Iraqi border, July 30, 2003. The 101st Airborne Division supervised the repair of the international train station to help restore commerce and freedom of movement across Iraq's borders. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Wastler



ROOM TO ROOM — Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, (Air Assault) secure a school and go through each room to check for caches. Photo by Pfc. Joshua Hutcheson.



A rebel soldier rides on a car transporting sacks of food near the headquarters of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebel group in the port area of the Liberian capital Monrovia Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2003. (AP Photo/Schalk Van Zuydam)



People pray during a ceremony marking the third anniversary of the Kursk nuclear submarine disaster at Serafimovsky cemetery in St. Petersburg, Russia, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2003. Grieving relatives and friends came to the cemetery to mourn the deaths of crewmen in the sinking of the Kursk submarine three years ago. (AP Photo/Dmitry Iovetsky)



Soldiers with the 489th Engineer Battalion take cover after receiving sniper fire near the town of Falluja, Iraq, during a routine patrol Aug. 4. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Robert Liddy

DefenseLINK 
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

www.defenselink.mil/